

NEWS FROM THE VA

- ⇒ On Jan. 22, the VA CT Healthcare System unveiled its new **Women's Health Center** at the West Haven campus.
- ⇒ The new space provides women veterans access to 3 primary care physicians, 2 nurses (1 nurse practitioner and 1 licensed practical nurse), 2 gynecologists, and 3 mental health professionals
- ⇒ The VA provides a variety of services to veterans & their families, including: healthcare, disability compensation, pensions, educational assistance, home loans, and more.



Rep. Larson visits veterans at Victory Gardens in Newington.

- ⇒ If you're a veteran, servicemember, or dependent of a veteran, you can learn more about the VA's services at <http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/>

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VETERAN'S UPDATE



Summer 2016

Legislative Update

- ⇒ **H.R. 2460:** Directs the VA to provide no cost adult day health care at state veterans' homes to those with a 70%+ service-connected disability.
- ⇒ **Final Farewell Act of 2016 (H.R. 3715):** Directs the VA to permit weekend funerals at national cemeteries—excepting a federal holiday—for religious or cultural reasons.
- ⇒ **Support Our Military Caregivers Act (H.R. 3989):** Requires the VA to contract an independent entity to conduct external reviews of appeals regarding determinations for the Caregivers Program
- ⇒ **Improving Transition Programs for All Veterans (H.R. 5229):** Requires the VA to evaluate the effectiveness of programs to help veterans—especially women, minorities, and the disabled—transition to civilian life.
- ⇒ **VA Health Center Management Stability and Improvement Act (H.R. 3956):** Directs the VA to develop and implement a plan to fill pending medical center vacancies. Also directs VA to withhold bonuses for directors who fail to certify their medical facility is complying with all laws and regulations.

All recently passed by voice vote

ICYMI

- ⇒ The VA recently unveiled their **MyVA** initiative to better serve veterans. The nation's first MyVA Forum took place last August at Central Connecticut State University.
- ⇒ In March, Goodwin College held a MyVA forum to focus on the transition from military to civilian life. Learn more about MyVA at <http://1.usa.gov/1tezTbf>



Rep. Larson speaks at the CT State Veterans Memorial dedication

- ⇒ The **Veterans History Project (VHP)** recently archived its 100,000th oral history from an American veteran. Learn more about VHP: <http://bit.ly/1OIQRyi>
- ⇒ I recently helped **Mr. Bernard Renouf** obtain his Korean Ambassador for Peace medal, which was presented at a Memorial Day ceremony in Windsor Locks. Mr. Renouf served from April 1949 to February 1954, during which time he was captured and held as POW for over 2 years.
- ⇒ We mourn the loss of **Renaud "Rene" Albert**, a decorated Korean War veteran. I had the great honor of presenting him with his medals last year in Bristol. My thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones.



Rep. Larson meets with his Veterans Advisory Board in Hartford.

A Note from John

Caring for Veterans is one of my top priorities as a Member of Congress. That's why I supported the largest overhaul of the VA in decades—the **Veterans Access, Choice, & Accountability Act**. This program allows veterans to receive VA sponsored healthcare in their own communities if:

- ◆ They have been (or will be) waiting more than 30 days for VA medical care
- ◆ They live more than 40 miles from a VA facility or face an excessive travel burden

Our veterans, servicemembers, and their families sacrifice so much for our nation. They deserve our full support. I will continue to work to improve the programs and services that they rely on.

To learn more about the Veterans Access, Choice, & Accountability Act, please visit: <http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/>